

2003 Report of Accomplishments Underwood Conservation District



Natural Resource Improvements in 2003 - Summary

- *Maintenance of 9,100 feet of fence* in Rattlesnake creek drainage
- *Planting of 2,800 trees* under Cost-share program in the White Salmon watershed and via Wind River BPA Contract
- *Removal of 5 acres of scotch broom* along the Wind River
- *Construction of 26 grade control structures* in District Streams, increasing late-season downstream flow, thereby decreasing late-season water temperatures
- *Water Quality Monitoring* on 31 sites within the White Salmon and Wind River Watersheds
- *Sale of 65,000 trees* to landowners under District Tree Sales Program



Mission of the Underwood Conservation District

The Underwood Conservation District's goal is to enhance the level of natural resource stewardship exercised by landowners, managers and resource users in the district. The actual programs used by the UCD to accomplish the stewardship goal can be divided into four main categories:

- *Direct conservation action,*
- *Facilitation of conservation action through providing technical assistance and cost-sharing opportunities to landowners,*
- *Promoting better stewardship by conducting citizen involvement and environmental education projects and,*
- *Monitoring of project enactment and environmental results for purposes of measuring progress and adapting programs to meet changing needs.*

Water Quality Implementation

- *Installation of 26 grade control structures* in district streams
- *Planting of 1,620 trees* under Cost-share program in the White Salmon watershed that help shade district streams
- *Maintenance of 9,100 feet of fence* in Rattlesnake creek drainage, helping to keep cattle from the creek and enhancing water quality
- *Coordination of 14 meetings* of Jewett Creek Streamkeepers and White Salmon River Watershed Management Committees, providing forums for information exchange, project review, and landowner education
- *Construction of and maintenance of 27 erosion control water bars* along Weldon Wagon Trail, decreasing erosion into streams

Bonneville Power Administration Rattlesnake Creek Contract (Salmonid Restoration)

- *Monitoring water temperature at 16 sites* within the White Salmon watershed
- *Monitoring water chemistry at 17 sites* within the White Salmon watershed
- *Installing a permanent stream monitoring gauge* near the base of Rattlesnake creek
- *Initiating monitoring and development of a rating curve* for the new Gauging station
- *Completion of an assessment of the geomorphology of Rattlesnake creek*
- *Monitoring background levels of carbon isotopes* at five sites in Rattlesnake creek.
- *Bi-monthly monitoring of 10 piezometers*, shallow ground-water wells, in upper Rattlesnake creek drainage

Bonneville Power Administration Wind River Contract (Salmonid Restoration)

- *Facilitation of 10 meetings of the Wind River Watershed Council*, a local stakeholder group
- *Facilitation of 4 meetings of the White Salmon/Wind River Technical Advisory Group*, a Technical committee supporting local stakeholder groups
- *Continuous monitoring of water temperature at 7 sites* within the Wind River watershed
- *Monthly monitoring of water chemistry at 5 sites* within the upper Trout Creek drainage, a branch of the Wind River
- *Assisting USGS in accomplishing 2 rounds of water quality sampling*
- *Controlling scotch broom on 10 acres* along the Wind River
- *Accomplishing site preparation on approximately 3 acres*, prior to planting, along the Wind River
- *Planting 4 acres with 600 trees* along the Wind River. Reforestation efforts will, in the long term, help to provide shade for the stream
- *Monitoring reforestation efforts* from this year and past years, via photo documentation and on-the-ground surveys
- *Accomplishing photo documentation monitoring* of Stabler Cut-bank stability project

Professional Engineering

- *Completion of a Geomorphology Study for Rattlesnake Creek*
- *Drafting of a Geomorphology Study for the Middle Wind River*

Community Collaboration & Coordination

- *Coordination of 4 Stakeholder or Technical Advisory Groups involving 28 meetings* providing for information exchange, education, and project review opportunities.
- *Hosting two composting workshops*, teaching local landowners about methods of composting, in cooperation with Klickitat County
- *With NRCS, Developing 6 CRMP-related EQIP plans and coordinating 6 CRMP committees*

Information & Education

- *Hosting two composting workshops*, teaching local landowners about methods of composting, in cooperation with Klickitat County
- *Participated in two local Community Fairs*, White Salmon Springfest and Skamania County Fair, dispensing information about the District and soliciting input and projects from District residents.
- *Assisted local schools in Water Quality Education Efforts*. UCD assisted Whitson Elementary School in White Salmon, and Carson Middle School in Carson, in water quality monitoring efforts by students, enhancing student understanding and awareness of water quality values.
- *Distributed 2,640 free trees to 249 landowners* during Arbor Day, 2003, increasing local awareness of the importance of trees in Conservation.



Washington Conservation Districts assisting land managers with their conservation choices